



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: Oct. 19, 2005 (05-49)  
Contact: Joel Kangiser (360) 902-2013  
Mike Louisell (360) 902-1813

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560  
Visit our Web site at: [agr.wa.gov](http://agr.wa.gov)

## **Failure to submit structural pest home inspection report brings \$400 fine Agriculture Department issues three fines for pesticide rule violations in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter**

**OLYMPIA** – During the third quarter of 2005, the state Department of Agriculture (WSDA) issued fines totaling \$1,600 against one individual and two companies for violating state pesticide laws and rules. Fines ranged from \$400 to \$600 for violations that included failing to submit records, distributing restricted-use pesticides to unlicensed individuals, and distributing pesticides that were not registered in the state of Washington.

Actions taken were:

**James Cassel, Starlight Home Inspection, Everett:** Cassel failed to submit a wood destroying organism inspection report of a house that he inspected in Bothell after having received multiple requests from WSDA. Cassel was fined \$400 for the violation.

**GS Long Co., Inc., Yakima:** WSDA alleged that GS Long Co., Inc. sold state and federal restricted-use pesticides to a person that was not licensed to apply them. The matter was resolved when GS Long Co., Inc. agreed to pay \$600.

**Helena Chemical Company, Moses Lake:** WSDA alleged that Helena Chemical Co. sold pesticides that were not registered for distribution in Washington. The matter was resolved when Helena Chemical agreed to pay \$600.

### **Penalty matrix used to levy fines and suspensions**

A penalty matrix is used to ensure penalties are uniform and fair. The matrix takes into account the seriousness of the violation, whether it is a first or a repeat offense, and whether there are any aggravating or mitigating factors involved. Larger penalties often reflect repeat offenses or multiple violations within the same incident.

WSDA enforces state and federal laws to protect people, property and the environment against the improper use of pesticides. Staff also provides technical assistance to the pesticide industry and consumers, and enforces the rules on structural inspections for wood destroying organisms. About 200 allegations of improper distribution or misuse of pesticides, or faulty structural inspections are investigated each year.

To file a complaint involving the misuse of a pesticide, or to find out if a pesticide applicator or structural pest inspector is licensed, call (877) 301-4555.

###